

THE PATTERNS AND IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGY USE IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

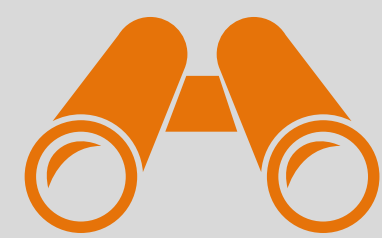
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BACKGROUND



Excessive electronic screen media (ESM) use in children is **negatively correlated** with both physical and mental development, with increased risks of obesity and psychological problems.

OBJECTIVE



To identify the parent-perceived impacts of ESM use on children with ASD and their families.

METHODS & ANALYSIS

A 44-question parent-report survey was used to identify the **social, environmental, and behavioural factors** of ESM use for children, as well as its **perceived impacts**.



Multinomial ordinary logistic regression and statistical analyses were performed using R.

The sample data consisted of **611 participants**, where the children were categorized into 3 groups: **ASD, Mixed (non-ASD and missing diagnoses), and TD (no known diagnoses)**.

	ASD (n=407)	Mixed (n=204)	TD (n=130)
Age (mean (SD))	10.7 (4.28)	8.7 (4.44)	7.7 (4.57)
Gender (M:F:Other)	318:85:3	118:85:0	68:61:0

CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) EXPERIENCE INCREASED POSITIVE PARENT-PERCEIVED IMPACTS DUE TO TECHNOLOGY USE COMPARED TO TYPICALLY DEVELOPING (TD) CHILDREN.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

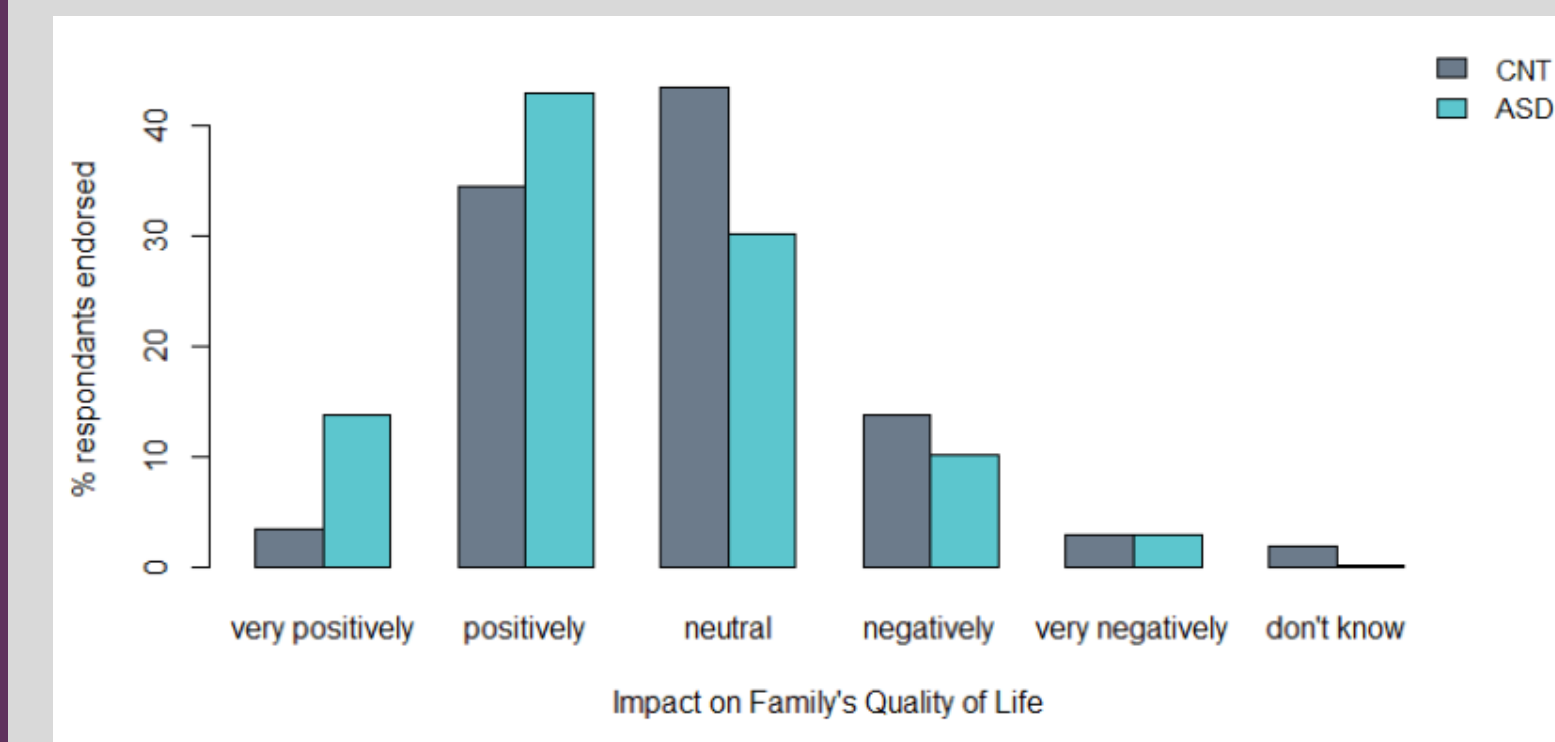
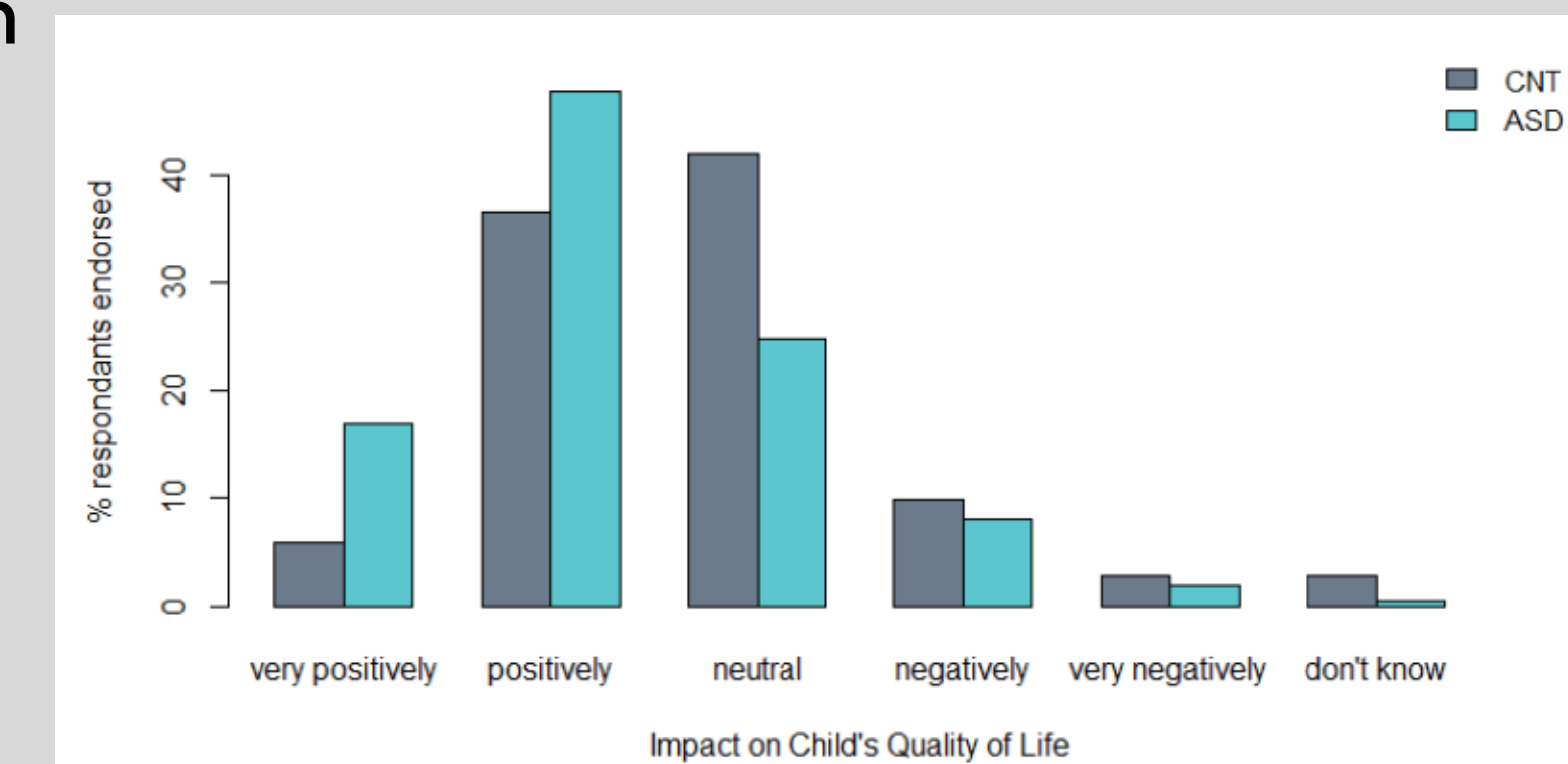
Thank you to Mitacs and Autism Speaks for funding this study. Thank you to the Ward Summer Student Research Program and the University of Toronto for providing me with this innovative opportunity.

RESULTS

	Impact on Child	Impact on Family
Group	OR: 0.45 (0.32, 0.63), p < 0.0001	OR: 0.46 (0.33, 0.64), p < 0.0001

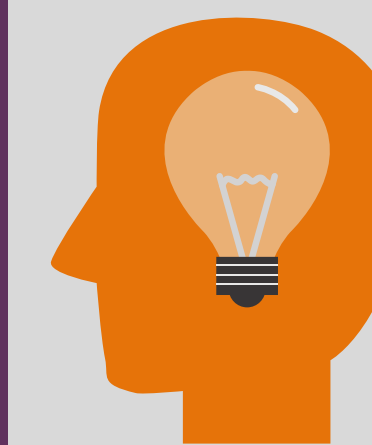
Parents of children with ASD had a **significantly higher likelihood** of reporting both a **positive impact** on the child and on the family compared to parents of TD children.

Parents of children with ASD reported **positive impacts** on the child from ESM use **11.2% more** than those of TD children.



Parents of children with ASD reported **positive impacts** on the family from ESM use **8.37% more** than those of TD children.

CONCLUSION



Although children with ASD are reported to have higher screen time exposure, they associate ESM use with a **more positive experience** and **greater impacts** compared to TD children.

RELEVANCE TO CLIENTS & FAMILIES

Parents and individuals or clinicians involved in supporting children with ASD can further implement ESM into their delivery of support.

